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PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 67183/01-188
Response to Restriction Requirement
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kotov
Serial No.: 09/818,001
Filed: 03/27/2001
Confirmation No.: 2021
Title: Assembly of free-standing films using a layer-by-layer process
Art Unit: 1732
Examiner: Edmund H. Lee

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed 07/01/2004. As this paper is being filed within the one (1) month shortened statutory period for response, no petition for extension of time or fee should be due. Nonetheless, please consider this paper to constitute a Conditional Petition for Extension of Time for the appropriate length of time should such be required. If any extension of time fee or other fee is required by virtue of the filing of this paper, please also consider this a general authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 06-0540 for the same.

Restriction Requirement

In the Office Action, the examiner indicated restriction to one of the following patentably distinct species to be required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

a) those claims(s) directed to melting the substrate at a temperature that does not destroy the layer-by-layer thin film.

b) those claims(s) directed to chemically or physically treating the thin film assembly to destroy bonds between the substrate and the thin film without destroying the layer-by-layer thin film.

Election

Applicant elects, without traverse, the species claims of Group B for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claims 12-15 and 19-26 are generic. Claims 16 and 18 are readable on the Group B species.

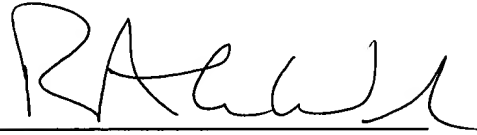
Remarks

Examination of claims consonant with the election made herein is respectfully requested.

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This paper is intended to constitute a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the application would be expedited in any respect by a telephone conference, he is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

8/2/04

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